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10/565,158	01/19/2006	Makoto Akihata	283583US6PCT	7307
22850 7590 01/28/2010 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER KANAAN, SIMON P				
ART UNIT 2432		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/565,158

Applicant(s)

AKIHATA, MAKOTO

Examiner

SIMON KANAAN

Art Unit

2432

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on 9/18/2009 for Application No. 10/565158.
2. Applicant's arguments/ amendments with respect to pending claims 1 through 14 filed 9/18/2009, have been fully considered and are not fully persuasive.

Applicant's arguments:

3. Applicant's amendments are accepted as overcoming the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection of the previous Office Action. However, the amendments have required a new grounds of rejection for the "computer readable medium."
4. Applicant's arguments:
 - I. The cited prior art does not disclose "storage means for storing content data acquired from a content data provision apparatus, said content data provision apparatus providing said content data which is prohibited from being stored in a location external to said content data reproduction apparatus and setting means for setting said content data stored in said storage means to reproducible when said reception means receives said registration confirmation signal and after said content data is acquired and stored by the storage means."
 - II. Shimizu does not qualify as prior art.
 - III. The cited prior art does not disclose "determination means for checking said first storage means based on said apparatus identification information or said user identification information shown by the received confirmation request signal to

determine whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or said user has been properly charged payment.”

Response to applicant's arguments:

5. Examiner's response to arguments filed 9/18/2009:
- II. Examiner agrees that Shimizu does not qualify as prior art and the rejection of claim 4 based on Shimizu is withdrawn. However, upon further search a new art has been found and is referred to in new grounds of rejection which follow.
- I. III. Irwin in view of Stefik teaches creation of a file and distribution of the file with different sets of rights based upon the preferences of the creator of the digital work. Among these rights are, do not copy and rights that can be altered upon a status change i.e. purchase. –Stefik, Column 48, lines 35-52

Information Disclosure Statement

6. The information disclosure statement (IDS) has been acknowledged. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Specification

7. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The term “computer readable medium” as in claims 13 and 14 is not defined in the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

8. Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter because of the following reason:
9. The claims fail to place the invention squarely within one statutory class of invention. The instant specification fails to define "computer readable medium" which can be interpreted to include signals. As such, the claim is drawn to a form of energy. Energy is not one of the four categories of invention and therefore this claim(s) is/are not statutory. Energy is not a series of steps or acts and thus is not a process. Energy is not a physical article or object and as such is not a machine or manufacture. Energy is not a combination of substances and therefore not a composition of matter.
10. Examiner suggests replacing "computer readable medium" to "non-transitory computer readable medium" and indicate where support for "non-transitory computer readable medium" in the specification is disclosed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

11. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

12. Claims 1-10 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

13. As per claims 1-7 and 8-10 claim multiple elements that consist of "**means for**" which are a means (or step) plus function limitation that invokes 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. However, the written description fails to clearly link or associate the disclosed structure, material, or acts to the claimed function such that one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize what structure, material, or acts perform the claimed function. The written description discloses the structure in the claims but does not clearly link the structure with its corresponding "means".

Applicant is required to:

- (a) Amend the claim so that the claim limitation will no longer be a means (or step) plus function limitation under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph; or
- (b) Amend the written description of the specification such that it clearly links or associates the corresponding structure, material, or acts to the claimed function without introducing any new matter (35 U.S.C. 132(a)); or
- (c) State on the record where the corresponding structure, material, or acts are set forth in the written description of the specification that perform the claimed function. For more information, see 37 CFR 1.75(d) and MPEP §§ 608.01(o) and 2181.

For a computer-implemented means-plus-function claim limitation that invokes 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph, the corresponding structure is required to be more than simply a general purpose computer or microprocessor. The corresponding structure for a computer

implemented function must include the algorithm as well as the general purpose computer or microprocessor.

14. As per claims 12 and 14, contain the limitation "said second step" in the last line which has no antecedent basis in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claims 1-3, and 5-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Irwin et al. (US PreGrant publication 7,289,273 B2) in view of Stefik (US Patent No: 5,715,403)

As per claim 1, Irwin discloses content data reproduction apparatus for reproducing content data, said content data reproduction apparatus comprising:

- reception means for receiving from said registration confirmation apparatus a registration confirmation signal which informs that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user has been registered; - Irwin, columns 6, lines 1-32, col. 20, lines 23-60; consumer device i.e. repository requests data from an intermediate rights provider registering itself

storage means for storing content data acquired from a content data provision apparatus, said content data provision apparatus providing - Irwin, columns 5, lines 40-67, consumer device is an mp3 player which store data

but fails to disclose said content data which is prohibited from being stored in a location external to said content data reproduction apparatus; setting means for setting said content data stored in said storage means to reproducible when said reception means receives said registration confirmation signal and after said content data is acquired and stored by the storage means; and reproduction means for reproducing said content data when a reproduction command for said content data is input via an input means while said content data is being set to reproducible by said setting means.

However, Stefik discloses said content data which is prohibited from being stored in an external section; - Stefik, column 46, line 52 to column 47, line 21, different rights can be set to digital media. One of the rights can be to only play the file and not be able to copy it hence not be able to store it in an external section.

setting means for setting said content data stored in said storage means to reproducible when said reception means receives said registration confirmation signal; - Stefik, column 48, lines 36 through 54, rights to store/make copies are not granted till user decides to purchase the music.

and reproduction means for reproducing said content data when a reproduction command for said content data is input via an input means while said content data is being set to reproducible by said setting means. - Stefik, column 48, lines 36 through 54, rights to store/make copies are not granted till user decides to purchase the music.

Irwin and Stefik are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of electronic digital rights management.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the data reproduction device as described by Irwin and the digital rights management as taught by Stefik in order to implement a DRM for external storage.

As per claim 2, Irwin in view of Stefik discloses The content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when an operation to purchase said content data which is associated with attribute information informing that said content data is prohibited from being stored in the location external to said content data reproduction apparatus is performed, - Stefik, column 46, line 52 to column 47, line 21, different rights can be set to digital media. One of the rights can be to only play the file and not be able to copy it hence not be able to store it in an external section.

said content data reproduction apparatus transmits to a content data sales apparatus a purchase notification signal which notifies said content data sales apparatus of an intention to purchase said content data, -Irwin figure 3, consumer device requests play from content server and obtains rights, consumer requests to purchase media and gets updates rights upon receiving signal from license server

and then when receiving from said content data sales apparatus a sale notification signal which notifies said content data reproduction apparatus that a sale of said content data is completed, -Irwin figure 3 teaches the purchased data rights transmitted to consumer device

said content data reproduction apparatus changes said attribute information of said content data such that said attribute information informs that said content data is allowed to be stored in the location external to said content data reproduction apparatus. -Stefik, column 48, lines 36 through 54, rights to store/make copies are not granted till user decides to purchase the music. User gets the right given the choices they make. If they are not paying they would be able to view it only if they pay they would get rights to copy. Once user pays the rights associated with the music are updated to allow user to make copies.

As per claim 3, Irwin in view of Stefik discloses The content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said attribute information informing that said content data is allowed to be stored in the location external to said content data reproduction apparatus shows permission of outputting said content data to an external section as if said content data is lent out, or permission of outputting said content data to the location external to said content data reproduction apparatus as well as deleting said content data from said storage means. -Stefik, column 48, lines 36 through 54, rights to store/make copies are not granted till user decides to purchase the music. User gets the right given the choices they make. If they are not paying they would be able to view it only if they pay they would get rights to copy. Once user pays the rights associated with the music are updated to allow user to make copies.

As per claim 5, Irwin in view of Stefik discloses The content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: readout means for reading out said content data from a storage medium, wherein said storage means stores said content data read by said

readout means. -Stefik, column 48, lines 36 through 54, rights to store/make copies are not granted till user decides to purchase the music. User gets the right given the choices they make. If they are not paying they would be able to view it only if they pay they would get rights to copy. Once user pays the rights associated with the music are updated to allow user to make copies. User being able to view the music file is reading it out.

As per claim 6, Irwin in view of Stefik discloses The content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said content data provided from said content data provision apparatus is associated with attribute information informing that said content data is prohibited from being output to the location external to said content data reproduction apparatus. - Stefik, column 46, line 52 to column 47, line 21, different rights can be set to digital media. One of the rights can be to only play the file and not be able to copy it hence not be able to store it in an external section.

As per claim 7, Irwin in view of Stefik discloses The content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising: output means for outputting content data to the location external to said content data reproduction apparatus; and output control means for controlling said output means such that said content data is not output when the attribute information of said content data informs that the outputting of said content data is prohibited. - Stefik, column 46, line 52 to column 47, line 21, different rights can be set to digital media. One of the rights can be to only play the file and not be able to copy it hence not be able to store it in an external section. Column 48, lines 36 through 54, rights to store/make copies are not granted

till user decides to purchase the music. User gets the right given the choices they make. If they are not paying they would be able to view it only if they pay they would get rights to copy. Once user pays the rights associated with the music are updated to allow user to make copies. User being able to view the music file is reading it out. So Stefik discloses the a digital work can have permission rights associated with it which only allows user to view it and it can have rights to make copies and it can have multiple rights given what user chooses. Hence user can have one right till they make the purchase and their right changes i.e. receive additional rights to the digital media.

As per claim 8, Irwin discloses A registration confirmation apparatus comprising: reception means for receiving from content data reproduction apparatus a confirmation request signal which requests said registration confirmation apparatus to confirm whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or a user thereof has been registered, - Irwin figure 3, consumer device requests play from content server and obtains rights, consumer requests to purchase media and gets updates rights upon receiving signal from license server

said content data reproduction apparatus configured to reproduce content data; - Irwin, column 19, lines 35 through 52, content device is able to reproduce data

first storage means for storing apparatus identification information identifying said content data reproduction apparatus or user identification information identifying said user, - Irwin, figure 3

but fails to disclose along with payment status information showing a payment status of said content data reproduction apparatus or said user; determination means for checking said first

storage means based on said apparatus identification information or said user identification information shown by the received confirmation request signal to determine whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or said user has been properly charged payment; and transmission means for transmitting to said content data reproduction apparatus a registration confirmation signal which informs that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user has been registered, in response to the determination result of said determination means.

However, Stefik discloses along with payment status information showing payment status of said content data reproduction apparatus or said user; determination means for checking said first storage means based on said apparatus identification information or said user identification information shown by the received confirmation request signal to determine whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or said user has been properly charged; - Stefik, column 48, lines 36 through 54, rights to store/make copies are not granted till user decides to purchase the music.

and transmission means for transmitting to said content data reproduction apparatus a registration confirmation signal which informs that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user has been registered, in response to the determination result of said determination means. - Stefik, columns 27 and 28, repositories communicate insuring other is registered and a message indicating registration is sent

Irwin and Stefik are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of electronic digital rights management.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the data reproduction device as described by Irwin and the digital rights management as taught by Stefik in order to implement a DRM for external storage.

As per claim 9, Irwin in view of Stefik discloses The registration confirmation apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising: second storage means for storing content data; and content data transmission means for transmitting to said content data reproduction apparatus said content data stored in said second storage means, in response to a request from said content data reproduction apparatus. – Irwin figure 3, and Stefik, columns 27 and 28, repositories communicate insuring other is registered and a message indicating registration is sent. There are two repositories which store and transmit the data between them.

As per claim 10, Irwin in view of Stefik discloses The registration confirmation apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said content data transmission means transmits to said content data reproduction apparatus said content data which is prohibited from being stored from said content data reproduction apparatus to a location external to said content data reproduction apparatus. , - Stefik, column 46, line 52 to column 47, line 21, different rights can be set to digital media. One of the rights can be to only play the file and not be able to copy it hence not be able to store it in an external section.

As per claims 11 and 13, Irwin discloses A content data reproduction method of a content data reproduction apparatus for reproducing content data, said content data reproduction

method comprising: transmitting to registration confirmation apparatus a confirmation request signal which requests the registration confirmation apparatus to confirm whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or a user has been registered; - Irwin figure 3

But fails to disclose receiving from said registration confirmation apparatus a registration confirmation signal which informs that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user has been registered; storing in a storage means content data acquired from content data provision apparatus, said content data provision apparatus providing said content data which is prohibited from being stored in the location external to said content data reproduction apparatus; setting said content data stored in said storage means to reproducible when said registration confirmation signal is received from said registration confirmation apparatus and after said content data is acquired and stored by said storage means; and reproducing said content data when a reproduction command for said content data is input via an input means while said content data is being set to reproducible.

However Stefik discloses a second step of receiving from said registration confirmation apparatus a registration confirmation signal which informs that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user has been registered; - Stefik, columns 27 and 28, repositories communicate insuring other is registered and a message indicating registration is sent. signal sent informing repository that user is registered

a third step of storing in a storage means content data acquired from content data provision apparatus, said content data provision apparatus providing said content data which is prohibited from being stored in an external section; - Stefik, column 46, line 52 to column 47,

line 21, different rights can be set to digital media. One of the rights can be to only play the file and not be able to copy it hence not be able to store it in an external section.

a fourth step of setting said content data stored in said storage means to reproducible when said registration confirmation signal is received from said registration confirmation apparatus; - Stefik, column 46, line 52 to column 47, line 21, different rights can be set to digital media. One of the rights can be to only play the file and not be able to copy it hence not be able to store it in an external section.

and a fifth step of reproducing said content data when a reproduction command for said content data is input via an input means while said content data is being set to reproducible. - Stefik, column 48, lines 36 through 54, rights to store/make copies are not granted till user decides to purchase the music.

Irwin and Stefik are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of electronic digital rights management.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the data reproduction device as described by Irwin and and the digital rights management as taught by Stefik in order to implement a DRM for external storage.

As per claims 12 and 14, Stefik discloses A registration confirmation method of registration confirmation apparatus, said registration confirmation a confirmation request signal which requests to confirm whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or a user has been registered, said content data reproduction apparatus configured to reproduce content data; -

Irwin figure 3 and columns 6, lines 1-32, consumer device i.e. repository requests data from an intermediate rights provider registering itself

But fails to disclose determining whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or said user has been properly charged by checking a storage means based on apparatus identification information identifying said content data reproduction apparatus or user identification information identifying said user shown in the received confirmation request signal, said storage means storing said apparatus identification information or said user identification information along with payment status information showing payment status of said content data reproduction apparatus or said user; and transmitting to said content data reproduction apparatus a registration confirmation signal which informs that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user has been registered, in response to the determination result of said second step.

However Stefik discloses a second step of determining whether or not said content data reproduction apparatus or said user has been properly charged by checking a storage means based on apparatus identification information identifying said content data reproduction apparatus or user identification information identifying said user shown in the received confirmation request signal, said storage means storing said apparatus identification information or said user identification information along with payment status information showing payment status of said content data reproduction apparatus or said user; - Stefik, column 8, lines 1-33 and figure 3, repositories connecting to credit server which handles payments and sends correct information to repositories informing them whether user is authorized or not.

and a third step of transmitting to said content data reproduction apparatus a registration confirmation signal which informs that said content data reproduction apparatus or said user has been registered, in response to the determination result of said second step. - Stefik, columns 27 and 28, repositories communicate insuring other is registered and a message indicating registration is sent.

Irwin and Stefik are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of electronic digital rights management.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the data reproduction device as described by Irwin and the digital rights management as taught by Stefik in order to implement a DRM for external storage.

17. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Irwin in view of Stefik and further in view of Lin (US Patent No: 6,275,693 B1)

As per claim 4, Irwin in view of Stefik discloses the content data reproduction apparatus according to claim 1,

but fails to disclose wherein said transmission means transmits said confirmation request signal to said registration confirmation apparatus each time when said content data reproduction apparatus is powered on

However, Lin discloses wherein said transmission means transmits said confirmation request signal to said registration confirmation apparatus each time when said content data

reproduction apparatus is powered on – Lin, column 4, lines 35-43, discloses powering on a device and registering it and that is a well known in the art to so, hence done automatically.

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to modify the device registration as disclosed in Irwin with the mobile device registration as disclosed in Lin because it is desirable to connect to network automatically upon powering up of device as disclosed in Lin – Lin, column 4, lines 35-43, discloses powering on a device and registering it and that is a well known in the art to so, hence done automatically.

Conclusion

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Simon Kanaan whose telephone number is (571)270-3906. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the above noted Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron, can be reached at the following telephone number: (571) 272-3799.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

/SIMON KANAAN/
Examiner, Art Unit 2432

/Gilberto Barron Jr./
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2432